

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant :	Michele Sanicola-Nadel et al.	Art Unit :	1643
Serial No. :	10/668,936	Examiner :	Alana M. Harris
Filed :	September 23, 2003	Conf. No. :	3298
Title :	RET LIGAND (RETL) FOR STIMULATING NEURAL AND RENAL GROWTH		

Mail Stop Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

In response to the Restriction Requirement dated June 1, 2006, applicants elect the invention of Group II, drawn to the embodiment of claims 1-4. The election is made with traverse.

The claims of elected Group II recite the human RetL3 polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:21. The murine RetL3 polypeptide (SEQ ID NO:17) of Group I is highly related to the human RetL3 polypeptide. Because of the relatedness of these sequences, applicants respectfully submit that it would require no undue burden to examine the claims of Group I together with those of Group II. Consistent with this request, applicants note that claims to nucleic acids encoding human and murine RetL3 polypeptides (SEQ ID NO:21 and SEQ ID NO:17) were examined together in issued parent patent number 6,677,135. Similarly, antibodies directed against human and murine RetL3 polypeptides (SEQ ID NO:21 and SEQ ID NO:17) were examined together in issued parent patent number 6,861,509. It is applicants' understanding that this joint examination entails no undue burden.

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Attorney's Docket No.: 13751-045003 / A008 DIV2

Please apply any charges or credits to Deposit Account No. 06-1050, referencing
Attorney Docket No. 13751-045003.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: June 29, 2006

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